GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
CHECK ON DISPLACEMENT OF TRIBALS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated regarding the issues related to water, forest and land;

(b) if so, the provisions made in the said policy to check the forcible displacement of Adiwasis and Van Gujjars on the forests where they have been residing for ages, in the name of protected forest in the country;

(c) the number of incidents of displacing Adiwasis settled down in forests and handing over forests to the corporate sector during the last ten years, State-wise; and

(d) the facilities provided to the displaced for their rehabilitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing National Forest Policy, 1988, which has the principal objective of maintaining environmental stability and ecological security of the nation including water cycle, biodiversity conservation, land productivity, etc.

(b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Section 4 of the Act provides for the procedure of recognition, restoration and vesting of forest rights and related matters and the sub section (5) of the Section-4 specifically mentions that no member of a forest dwelling scheduled tribe or a traditional forest dweller shall be evicted or removed from forest under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete. This is also a safeguard to check the forcible displacement of Adiwasis and Van Gujjars. Voluntary rehabilitation of Adiwasis from Protected areas such as National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries is done as per the guidelines of the Government of India.

(c) & (d) Diversion of forest land including for corporate sector is being regulated under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check the indiscriminate diversion of forest land. It is also ensured that no forcible eviction of Adiwasis settled in forest areas takes place for handing over the forest land to the corporate sector. Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plans, wherever applicable, are in-built components of the proposals for diversion of forest land including those to the corporate sector and details of the number of families rehabilitated elsewhere while handing over the forest land to the corporate sector is not compiled at the level of the Central Government. However, the Ministry supplements the efforts of State/UT Government through financial assistance for relocation of villages outside the Project Tiger/Protected Areas subject to the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.